

Submitter: Irving Lubliner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

We have a voter registration system that works, enabling a high percentage of those registered to vote to do so, with minimal (if any) fraudulent ballots being cast. This is a system that should serve as a model for other states, not be abandoned in our own. We have all seen news stories of people waiting in very long lines outside their precincts, often waiting for hours to cast a ballot, sometimes in extreme weather. We have also seen deceptive practices used to lure people to addresses they think are polling places but turn out not to be.

Requiring people to vote in person on a specified day will create a hardship (or make voting entirely impossible) for many groups of voters, including, but not limited to the following: --elderly and disabled Individuals (people with mobility issues, chronic illnesses, or conditions that make it difficult to travel to polling places or stand in long lines)

--rural residents (those living in remote areas who cannot travel long distances to reach a polling place, especially if transportation options are limited)

--people with work and family obligations (those who work long hours, have multiple jobs, or have caregiving responsibilities)

--people without reliable transportation

--low-income individuals (who may not be able to afford taking time off work, traveling to a polling place, or arranging childcare)

--people facing health risks (those at high risk for communicable diseases, especially in times of a health crisis, such as a pandemic, given that these people feel unsafe waiting in a crowd to vote)

--Native American voters (many of whom live in areas with limited polling places or lack standard mailing addresses)

--victims of voter intimidation (those living in communities with a history of voter suppression may feel unsafe going to polling places if there is a risk of harassment)

--college students living away from home

--people who work overnight, extended, or irregular shifts (such as healthcare workers, factory workers, and first responders, who may find it difficult to vote during polling hours)

--people in hospitals or nursing facilities; people living in high-crime areas

--members of the LGBTQ+ community (who may feel unsafe or unwelcome at polling places)

--seasonal and migrant workers (who might be working outside their home district)

--newly-registered voters (who might find the process intimidating or confusing)

--students (who may feel overwhelmed with classes and coursework demanding their attention)

--victims of domestic violence (who have relocated for safety reasons or fear being seen in public)

This partial list contains many people whose lives could be drastically affected by the outcome of an election, and we should be making it as easy as possible for ALL of those who meet the qualifications to vote to do so. I strongly encourage a NO vote on SB 210.